



## • INFO memo - Feb. 20, 2004

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### **Joint City Meeting Set for Feb. 26**

A joint meeting of Broken Arrow's City Council, Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment has been scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Community Center in Central Park.

The Planning Commission had earlier this year requested the joint meeting.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and be open to the public. An agenda will be posted next week.

### **Special Olympics Salutes BA Police Department**

Oklahoma's Special Olympics has presented the Broken Arrow Police Department with the "2003 Dreams Award."

The award is given to law enforcement agencies which raise \$1,000 to \$1,999 by selling Special Olympics t-shirts, hats, etc. The BAPD also raised money through its participation in the "Cops on the Doughnut Shop" fundraiser earlier this year.

Lisa Ford, Crime Prevention Specialist for the department, said that BAPD is one of only five recipients of the award.

The award was presented to Chief Todd Wuestewald and Maj. Norm Stephens at the Feb. 17 staff meeting. Also coming in for special thanks were Detective Scott Bross, Officers Chris Chambers and Scott Oelke and Ford.

### **One More Week to Respond to Crime Survey**

Next week (the final week of February) will be the last chance citizens have to respond to an invitation from the Broken Arrow Police Department to participate in a citizens' crime survey.

In an effort to get input from residents, the BAPD inserted a Citizen Crime Survey in water bills being mailed throughout the month of February.

The survey is also available on the City's web site ([www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov)), with a link to the on-line form from the home page (lower left corner).

Police Chief Todd Wuestewald states in a message included in the survey that "I want to ensure that this department meets the needs of the Broken Arrow community....The information you provide will be used to help us make decisions about how we do our day-to-day business, as well as plan for the future."

The survey asks citizens to rate how concerned they are about such crimes as burglary, vandalism, juvenile problems, gang activity and more. They also want to know if crimes are being reported to the police, if officers treated them with concern if they did make a report, etc.

## **Council Approves Use of Funds on Road Projects**

Responding to a request from City Staff, the City Council this week approved the expenditure of \$6.4 million on nine transportation projects.

The money was made available when estimates showed it would be left over after the named street projects from the 2000 bond issue were completed. Of the eight named projects on the bond issue four are completed, one is under construction, one is partially complete and two are under design.

Since the voters approved that 2000 bond package, there have been several new requirements for street improvements.

The new projects, in order of priority, are:

- 1, A drainage box for Elm and Pittsburg; 2, widening of Elm Place to five lanes from Kenosha to Houston; 3, improvement of the Elm Place intersection with Kenosha; 4, improvement of the intersection at Houston and Hwy. 51; 5, widening of Kenosha to five lanes from Elm Place to Date; 6, construction of Albany to five lanes from Elm Place to 9<sup>th</sup> Street; 7, widening of Albany to five lanes from Elm Place to the BA Expressway; 8, widening of Elm Place from the BAX to Radar site; and 9, signalization of Elm Place and Albany.

Two of those projects (the intersection improvements) would be done with matching state funds. The most expensive of the nine is the construction of Albany from Elm Place on over to Lynn Lane. That long-awaited project is estimated to come in at \$2 million.

## **Two Police Officers Sworn In**

Two men have taken the oath of office and joined the ranks of the Broken Arrow Police Department this past week.

Robert Motley was sworn in as a Police officer and Brandon Reynolds as a Reserve Officer in ceremonies held at the Police Department Conference Room. Municipal Court Judge Merl Whitebook presided.

Motley was born in Oklahoma City in 1975. He and his family moved to Tulsa in 1999 and to Broken Arrow this past year. He and his wife Jennifer have three children: Jake, 11, Jenna, 9, and Emma, 2. There's another on the way. Robert joined the Marine Corps in 1994. On Oct. 9 of last year he was hired onto the

BAPD, and he successfully completed CLEET basic academy on Dec. 17. He is currently undergoing training.

A native of Bartlesville, Reynolds attended Oklahoma State and Tulsa Community College, earning 66 college hours in criminal justice. He joined the BAPD in June of 2001, serving as a dispatcher.

## **Emergency Managers Week Feb. 22-28**

When disaster strikes, the visible responders are those in the fire trucks and police cars. In any kind of a disaster, however, the men and women behind the scenes who coordinate those first responders are equally important.

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry has proclaimed next week (Feb. 22-28) as “Emergency Management Week,” in honor of those individuals who work to prepare their communities for disasters – both natural and man-made.

In Oklahoma the jobs of those emergency management directors becomes tougher about this time of the year. As spring nears, so does the threat of tornadoes. Not only to the cities, towns and counties across Oklahoma have to be prepared in case storms hit, they have to be prepared to monitor threatening conditions and put the wheels in motion should tornadoes strike.

Since 9-11, there has been much more emphasis on those same emergency management directors and first responders being prepared for terrorist attacks and man-made disasters.

In Broken Arrow, the emergency management team is coordinated by Branon Dodd and Stephen Bradley. Dodd is the City’s Director of Risk Management and Employee Safety. Bradley is with the BAPD’s communications division. When the threat of severe weather approaches this area, they’ll be working together with weather spotters and monitoring weather reports to keep police and fire personnel updated and ready to move when needed.

At this time, there is no Emergency Operations center in Broken Arrow. There was a small office at the police department, but that has all but disappeared during renovations there during the past few months.

A new center, built underground, is on the list of projects to be voted on in the bond election this spring.

On Monday, Feb. 23, emergency managers from across Oklahoma will take their message of disaster preparedness to the State Capitol in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Emergency Management Association is hosting the event, which is designed to deliver discussion on the response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation efforts of emergency managers.

In the last few years alone, emergency managers have assisted Oklahomans during tornadoes, ice storms, wildfires, floods, hazardous materials incidents, school shootings, drought conditions, and the I-40 bridge collapse. They also work throughout the year in efforts to prevent and decrease the effects of disasters when they do strike, by supporting programs through mitigation projects like safe room rebates, disaster exercises and training activities.

